

5th International Conference on

HIV/AIDS, STDs and STIs

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The effects of alcohol and other drugs on people living with HIV/AIDS, STDs and STI's

Substance abuse can lead to risky behaviors that increase the chances of getting or transmitting HIV infection. It can also weaken the immune system and damage the liver. A weaker immune system has a harder time fighting off infections, as well as HIV-related infections. Also many people with HIV take medicine every day. Substance abuse can make it hard to focus and stick to a daily medicine regimen. Skipping medicines allows HIV to multiply and damage the immune system. Drug interactions between HIV medicines and recreational drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, or heroin can also increase the risk of dangerous side effects. In this session, you'll learn about: The effects of substance abuse on the body, how it increases the chances of getting or transmitting HIV, what you can do if you use drugs or alcohol and simple, practical tools and strategies to take care of yourself.

Biography

Loran J Thompson is a Corporate Trainer, National Speaker and Health Coach with a long history of working with the HIV/AIDS community since 1990. She worked with UCSD on a research project on the effects of drugs and alcohol and how it increases the risk for getting or transmitting HIV/AIDS. She also worked with the San Diego County of Health and Human Services HIV/AIDS branch and trained the facilitators of the GLI's (Group Level Intervention) across San Diego County to insure quality groups for the participants. She also completed a final report of the findings for the county.

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